

Claims

1. A process for preparing a printed synthetic suede leather comprising the steps of
 - (a) foaming a composition comprising an aqueous polyurethane dispersion;
 - (b) applying the foamed composition to a printed textile substrate composed of a yarn;
 - (c) coagulating the polyurethane dispersion;
 - (d) drying; and
 - (e) condensation.
2. A process according to claim 1, characterised in that the composition contains a coagulant.
3. A process according to claim 2, characterised in that the coagulant is an acid or a chemical substance capable of generating an acid.
4. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the composition contains a foaming agent.
5. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the yarn has a count of 0.01 to 2.50 denier.
6. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the fibres of the yarn consist of polyester.

7. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the foaming is carried out in such a manner that a foam density of 250 to 600 g/l is obtained.
8. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the polyurethane has a density of 800 to 1000 g/l after drying and condensation.
9. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the printed textile substrate has a pattern obtained in a rotary screen printing process.
10. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the printed textile substrate has been fixed with steam at a temperature in the range of 150 to 200 °C.
11. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the foamed composition is applied in a closed squeegee system.
12. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the composition is applied in such an amount that the weight per unit area is increased by 20 to 40 % vis-à-vis the textile substrate.
13. A process according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the textile substrate is subjected to mechanical stress before, during or after the condensation phase.
14. A process according to claim 13, characterised in that the mechanical stress is applied during the condensation phase through a tumble process.

15. A synthetic suede leather obtainable according to the process of any of the preceding claims.
16. A synthetic suede leather obtainable by applying a foamed polyurethane dispersion on a textile substrate composed of a yarn and subsequently coagulating said dispersion, the leather showing no specimen breakdown after 35.000 rubs (determined in accordance with EN ISO 12947-1 and -2) and having an air permeability in the range of 10 to 30 cm³/cm² sec (determined in accordance with ASTM D-737-96).
17. The use of the printed synthetic suede leather according to claim 15 or 16 as a cover in automotive, furniture or upholstery applications or as outer garments.